

# Takin

By Robert Fulford

Twice a year the news comes out of Ottawa on the CP wire: the Canada Council has done it again. The news comes in a press release listing the people who are about to receive grants under the Council's Explorations program.

Quite often the projects sound obscure or even downright eccentric. Somebody in Edmonton has just got \$6,000 to do research on Unidentified Flying Objects. Somebody in Nova Scotia has received \$8,373 to build some medieval musical instruments. Somebody in Quebec has got \$900 to produce a film on covered bridges in the Eastern Townships.

to help her prepare a book on cabinet-makers. The money allowed her to cut down money-making work for a while and spend more time out in the field, interviewing descendants of cabinet-makers and others who know something about the craft.

"The people I write about," she says, "are in many cases dying off. That money from the Canada Council enabled me to get information that I couldn't have got even a year later."

## Proper search for UFOs

But what about that man with the UFOs? The latest announcement contained the note that John Musgrave of Edmonton had received \$6,000 "to collect, organize and interpret data on reported sightings of UFOs across Canada."

On the surface it sounds as if the Canada Council

is funding crank scholarship. But in fact Musgrave is educated in the history of science and has for some time maintained a serious interest in the phenomenon of UFOs (his research has already pro-

ven that there was a reported sighting in the Bay of Fundy in 1796).

He wants to collect written material, interview witnesses, and make a substantial contribution to the subject.